IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Paul Kennedy

Application No.: 09/841,008

Filing Date: April 25, 2001

Title: ACCESS AUTHENTICATION FOR DISTRIBUTED NETWORKS

Group Art Unit: 2131

Examiner: CHRISTIAN A LAFORGIA

Confirmation No.: 4932

AMENDMENT/REPLY TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Enclosed is a reply for the above-identified patent application.

☒ A Petition for Extension of Time is also enclosed.

☐   Terminal Disclaimer(s) and the ☐ $65.00 (2814) ☐ $130.00 (1814) fee per Disclaimer due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.20(d) are also enclosed.

☐ Also enclosed is/are _____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

☐ Small entity status is hereby claimed.

☐ Applicant(s) requests continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 and enclose the
☐ $395.00 (2801) ☐ $790.00 (1801) fee due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e).

☐ Applicant(s) requests that any previously unentered after final amendments not be entered. Continued examination is requested based on the enclosed documents identified above.

☐ Applicant(s) previously submitted _____
_____

on _____,
for which continued examination is requested.

☐ Applicant(s) requests suspension of action by the Office until at least _____,
which does not exceed three months from the filing of this RCE, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c). The required fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) is enclosed.

☐ A Request for Entry and Consideration of Submission under 37 C.F.R. § 1.129(a) (1809/2809) is also enclosed.

Buchanan Ingersoll PC
ATTORNEYS
Including attorneys from Burns Doane Swecker & Mathis

☒ No additional claim fee is required.

☐ An additional claim fee is required, and is calculated as shown below.

AMENDED CLAIMS					
	No. of Claims	Highest No. of Claims Previously Paid For	Extra Claims	Rate	Additional Fee
Total Claims		MINUS =	0	x $50.00 (1202) =	$ 0.00
Independent Claims		MINUS =	0	x $200.00 (1201) =	$ 0.00
If Amendment adds multiple dependent claims, add $360.00 (1203)					
Total Claim Amendment Fee					$ 0.00
☐ Small Entity Status claimed - subtract 50% of Total Claim Amendment Fee					$ 0.00
TOTAL ADDITIONAL CLAIM FEE DUE FOR THIS AMENDMENT					$ 0.00

☐ A check in the amount of _____ is enclosed for the fee due.

☐ Charge _____ to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

☐ Charge _____ to credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17, 1.20(d) and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800. This paper is submitted in duplicate.
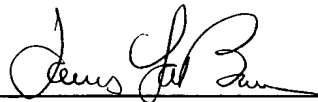
Respectfully submitted,

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By _____

James A. LaBarre
Registration No.   28,632

Date: February 7, 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of) Paul Kennedy) Application No.: 09/841,008) Filed: April 25, 2001) For: ACCESS AUTHENTICATION FOR) DISTRIBUTED NETWORKS)))	**MAIL STOP AF** Group Art Unit: 2131 Examiner: CHRISTIAN A LAFORGIA Confirmation No.: 4932

<u>REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION</u>

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 7, 2005, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims.

Claims 9-12, 14-18, 20-23 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103, on the basis of the newly-cited Aldred et al. patent (U.S. Patent No. 6,438,549) in view of the Byrne et al. patent (U.S. Patent No. 6,708,170). Claims 13, 19 and 24 were rejected on the basis of these two patents, and further in view of the Pang et al. patent (U.S. Patent No. 6,446,204). It is respectfully submitted that these patents do not suggest the claimed subject matter to a person of ordinary skill in the art, whether they are considered individually or in combination.

Claim 9 recites a method for authenticating users to individual network devices. The first step of this method is storing a directory structure. This directory comprises a root node, a first level of nodes below the root node that are associated with respective organizations to which the network devices are assigned, and at least one further level of nodes below the first level that identify users who are